

1-30 P. M.

(ii) RE STRIKE IN THE WEST COAST PAPER MILLS, LTD.,
DANDELI.

SRI V. M. GHADI (Haliyal).—Madam Speaker, I beg to call the attention of the Minister for Labour to the situation that has arisen due to the strike in the West Coast Paper Mills, Ltd., Dandeli.

SRI AZEEZ SAIT (Minister for Labour).—I make the following statement:

The Paper Mills Staff Association, Dandeli had raised an industrial dispute on 19-6-1972 with regard to the charter of 24 demands. The dispute was admitted in conciliation and in the course of the conciliation proceedings a settlement was brought about between the parties by the conciliation officer on 16-11-1972 in respect of 14 out of the 24 demands. Out of the remaining 10 demands, the Association agreed not to press its demand No. 16 relating to 'Leave Travel Allowance', thus leaving 9 demands on which no agreement could be reached resulting in the conciliation proceedings ending in failure. These outstanding 9 demands relate to (1) Pay Scales, (2) Adjustments, (3) Dearness Allowance, 4) Night Shift Allowance, (5) House Rent Allowance, (6) Holidays, (7) Re-transfer of Sri Venkataraman to Data Processing Department, Machine Allowance and (9) Special increment. Final recommendations from the Commissioner of Labour in this behalf are awaited because efforts are still being made to bring about a settlement.

The management of the West Coast Paper Mills, Ltd., Dandeli, issued a circular dated 7-1-1973 to its employees in connection with the demand on 'dearness allowance' offering to the employees to come to an amicable settlement through peaceful negotiations. The management by another circular dated 28-4-1973 intimated that settlement had been reached on the intervention of the Deputy Labour

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Commissioner, Hubli for payment of D. A. at 75 paise per point of Harihar Index and that all the permanent workmen would be provisionally paid an additional D. A. of Rs. 37-50 in aggregate per month for the months of February, March and April 1973 and for subsequent months at the rate of 75 paise per point of the Harihar cost of living index as and when published by Government. The circular also indicated that the members of staff earning below Rs. 1,000 per month will also be entitled to the same additional Dearness Allowance and the casuals and badlis will as will be eligible for the rise at the rate of Rs. 1-25 per day for the days they have worked with effect from 1-2-1973. The circular also indicated that additional benefits are also given to permanent workers who are at present getting Dearness Allowance at Rs. 92-50, Rs. 97-50, and Rs. 98-50 raising their D. A. to Rs. 100 per month. The minimum wages of the permanent workers was raised to Rs. 200 per month excluding 'house allowance' as against the present minimum of Rs. 159 per month. To this offer the Paper Mill Staff Association by its letter dated 30-4-1973 informed the management that it is agreeable to receive the Dearness Allowance and variable D. A. as interim relief in order to maintain industrial peace subject to the award by the Industrial Tribunal.

It is alleged by the Paper Mill Staff Association and the West Coast Paper Mills Employees' Union that while the charter of demands raised by them was taken up in conciliation and later ended in failure, the management had entered into an agreement with the Kagaj Mill Karmachari Sangh, which is a minority union and that therefore the majority unions are not a party to this agreement. The conciliation is alleged to have ended in failure on 28-4-1973 where as the settlement is stated to be dated 26-4-1973. It is also alleged that one worker was refused entry into the mill on 3-5-1973 and when no satisfactory explanation was made available by the management that

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the workers en masse struck work from 1-30 P. M. on 3-5-1973 on account of the alleged anti-Labour Policy and unfair labour practices adopted by the management, and failure to recognise the 'majority union'.

The Commissioner of Labour personally intervened in the matter during his stay at Dharwar on the 6th May 1973, and suggested after hearing all the parties in dispute that the issues might be further discussed at Bangalore taking the agreement reached between the management and workers of Paper Mills, Bhadravahi as the basis and in the meanwhile the management should disburse arrears of wages to the workers and reopen the co-operative stores and workers should release accounts staff to prepare pay bills and workers to unload coal. The management representatives wanted time to consult their Head Office. Thereafter the matter was discussed in my presence on 15-5-1973. The management sought 3 days time to consult their Bombay Office and intimate their decision about discussing de novo the issues involved. While no further communication has been received from the management in this regard, they are reported to have sent a telegram to the Deputy Labour Commissioner, Hubli, stating that 'Payment of wages to workers started on 19th.'

The Superintendent of Police, Karwar, also has informed that the Co-operative Society at the Mills is functioning normally and that payments for the month of April are being made.

The workers are still on strike and the situation is reported to be peaceful. Further efforts to resolve the issues involved are being made. The situation is being watched.

I furnish some additional information in reply to this calling Assembly Notes. Some of the representatives of the

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workers met me this morning and informed me that the strike is still continuing and the workers' solidarity is unaffected. The management has now resorted to some harsh measures like restricting the supply of water from only 6 A. M. to 8 A. M. and electricity from 7 P. M. to 11 P. M. The Co-operative Society which had earlier been closed down by the management has now started working under the instructions of the Labour Commissioner, but cash payment is being demanded for issue of rations instead of credit as was the past practice. This has put the workers to considerable hardship and it amounts to a coercive measure. Further, the following categories of workers are also adversely affected by the strike:—

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|---|---------|
| (1) Other contract labourers
inside the factory | — 500 |
| (2) Bomboo cutting, loading and
unloading workers about. | — 3,000 |
| (3) Bomboo plantation workers | — 3,000 |
| (4) Trucks and contract drivers | — 500 |

Besides, the petty shop keepers at Dandeli are also adversely affected since the workers have no money to purchase the necessities of life.

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ಶ್ರೀ ವಿ. ಎಂ. ಗಾಡಿ. ಈ ಪೇಪರ್ ಮಿಲ್ಲನಲ್ಲಿ 15 ವರ್ಷದಿಂದ ಅತ್ಯಾಚಾರ, ಅನ್ಯಾಯ ನಡೆಯುತ್ತಿದೆ, ಅಡಳಿತ ಸರಿಯಾಗಿಲ್ಲ. ಇದರಿಂದ 3-5-73 ರಂದು ಸ್ಫೋಟವಾಯಿತು, ಅಲ್ಲಿಂದ ಮೇನೇಜ್‌ಮೆಂಟಿನ ಅನ್ಯಾಯ ಕಂಡು ಬರುವುದು. 25-4-73ರಲ್ಲಿ ಕನ್‌ಸಲಿಯೇಷನ್ ಫೈರ್ ಆಯ್ತು. ಅದರೂ ಕರ್ಮಚಾರಿ ಸಂಘದೊಡನೆ ಒಪ್ಪಂದ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡಿರುವುದು ಅನ್ಯಾಯವೆನ್ನಿಸುವುದು. ಡಿ. ಎ. ವಿಚಾರದಲ್ಲಿ ನೌಕರರಿಗೆ ಸಮಾಧಾನವಾಗದೆ ಸ್ಟೈಕ್ ಮಾಡಿದರು.

(ಶ್ರೀ ಎ. ಎಂ. ಗಾಡಿ)

ಅನ್ಯಾಯವಾಗಿರಬಹುದೆಂದು ಇದರ ಸಲುವಾಗಿ ಎಲ್ಲರೂ ಸ್ಟೈಕ್ ಮಾಡಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಮ್ಯಾನೇಜ್‌ಮೆಂಟಿನ ಉದ್ವಿಗ್ನತೆಯಿದೆ. ಮಂತ್ರಿಗಳ ಭೇಟಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾತುಕತೆ ನಡೆದಿದೆ. ಮ್ಯಾನೇಜ್‌ಮೆಂಟಿನವರ ವರ್ತನೆ ಸರಿಯಾಗಿದ್ದರೆ ಇರುವಾಗ ಈ ಗಿರಣಿಯನ್ನೇಕೆ ನಿಲ್ಲಿಸಬಾರದು? ಈಗ ಫಾರಿಸ್ಟ್ ಕಾರ್ಪೊರೇಷನ್ ಮಾಡಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಅದರಲ್ಲಿ 37 ಕೋಟಿ ರೂಪಾಯಿಗೆ ಅವಕಾಶ ಮಾಡಿದೆ. ಅದು ಇನ್ನೊಂದು ಕಾಗದದ ಕಾರ್ಖಾನೆಗಾಗಿ ಇಟ್ಟಿದೆ. ಬೇರೆ ಕಾರ್ಖಾನೆ ಮಾಡುವುದಕ್ಕೆ ಬದಲಾಗಿ ಇದೇ ಕಾರ್ಖಾನೆಯನ್ನು ಸರಕಾರವೇಕೆ ತೆಗೆದುಕೊಂಡು ಅನ್ಯಾಯವಾಗುತ್ತಿರುವುದನ್ನೇಕೆ ತಪ್ಪಿಸಬಾರದು?

ಶ್ರೀ ಎಂ. ಎನ್. ಕೃಷ್ಣನ್.—ಎರಡು ಮೂರು ಪ್ರಶ್ನೆಗಳಿವೆ. ಮೊದಲನೆಯ ಪ್ರಶ್ನೆ ಏನೆಂದರೆ 16-11-1972ರಲ್ಲಿ ಡಿಮ್ಯಾಂಡ್ ಇಟ್ಟರು. ಫೈನಲ್ ರೆಕಮೆಂಡೇಷನ್‌ಗಾಗಿ ಕಾಯಿಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ, ತೀರ್ಮಾನ ಮಾಡುತ್ತೇವೆ ಎಂದು ಹೇಳಿ ಆರು ತಿಂಗಳಾಗಿದೆ. ಕಾನೂನು ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಕನಿಲಿಯೇಷನ್ ವಿಚಾರ 15 ದಿವಸದಲ್ಲಿ ಮುಗಿದುಬೇಕು. ಹಾಗೆ ಮಾಡಲು ಆಗದಿದ್ದರೆ ಅದನ್ನು ಬೇಗ ಮುಗಿಸಬೇಕೆಂದಿದೆ. ಅದರೂ ಕೂಡ ಕಾಲ ಏಳೆಂಬವಾಗಿರುವುದಕ್ಕೆ ಕಾರಣವೇನು? ವಿಳಂಬವಾಗಿರುವುದು ಸ್ಟೈಕ್‌ಗೆ ಅವಕಾಶವಾಗಿದೆ. ಮತ್ತು ಇದು ಅಗ್ರಿಮೆಂಟ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲು ಅವಕಾಶವಾಗಿದೆ.

ಎರಡನೆಯ ಪ್ರಶ್ನೆ, ಕಾಗದದ ಕಾರ್ಖಾನೆಯ ಕರ್ಮಚಾರಿ ಸಂಘ ಮೈನಾರಿಟಿಯಾನಿಎಸ್, ಜೊತೆಗೆ ಅದು ಒಪ್ಪಂದ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡಿದೆ. ಅದರ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಲೇಬರ್ ಇಲಾಖೆ ಅಭಿಪ್ರಾಯವೇನು? ಲೇಬರ್ ಆಕ್ಟ್ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ರಿಜಿಸ್ಟರ್ ಮಾಡಿದ್ದಾರೆಯೇ? ಅದು ಕಾನೂನು ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಇದೆಯೇ? ಅಥವಾ ಕಾನೂನಿಗೆ ವಿರೋಧವಾಗಿದೆಯೇ ಎಂಬುದನ್ನು ನೋಡಿರುವಿರಾ?

ಮೂರನೆಯ ಪ್ರಶ್ನೆ ತಾವು ಮೂರನೆ ಪುಟದಲ್ಲಿ ಹೇಳಿರುವುದನ್ನು ನೋಡಬಹುದು. ಭದ್ರಾವತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ವಾಡುರಾಮಣಿ ಒಪ್ಪಂದ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದು. ಮ್ಯಾನೇಜ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮಾತುಕತೆ ನಡೆಸುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಅರಿಯಲ್ಪಟ್ಟ ಹೆಜ್ಜೆ ಮಾಡಬೇಕು ಮುಂತಾದ್ದು ಅಲ್ಲಿ ತಿಳಿಸಿದೆ. ಇದರ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಸ್ಪಷ್ಟವಾದ ಅಭಿಪ್ರಾಯವಿಲ್ಲ.

Is it in respect of discussion *de novo* of the various issues or is it in respect of re-opening of the co-operative stores and release of accounts to the staff to prepare bills? What exactly does it connote?

(ಶ್ರೀ ಎಂ. ಎಸ್. ಕೃಷ್ಣನ್)

ಇದರ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ವಿವರವಾಗಿ ಬೇಕು. ಮ್ಯಾನೇಜ್‌ಮೆಂಟಿನವರು ಎಲೆಕ್ಟ್ರಾನಿಟಿ ಮತ್ತು ವಾಟರ್ ಅನ್ನು ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕರ ಕಾಲೊನಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಕೊಟ್ಟಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಇದರ ಮೇಲೆ ಮ್ಯಾನೇಜ್‌ಮೆಂಟಿನವರ ಹತೋಟಿ ಇರುತ್ತದೆ. ಆದ್ದರಿಂದ ಈ ರೀತಿಯಾಗಿ ನಡೆದಿದೆ ಎನ್ನುವುದು ಸ್ಪಷ್ಟವಾಗಿ ಗೊತ್ತಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಮ್ಯಾನೇಜ್‌ಮೆಂಟಿನವರ ಹತೋಟಿಯನ್ನು ಸಂಪೂರ್ಣವಾಗಿ ತಪ್ಪಿಸುವುದಕ್ಕೆ ತಕ್ಷಣ ಒಂದು ಆರ್ಟಿಕಲ್ ಅಡರೂ ಹೊರಡಿಸಿ, ಡಿಫೆನ್ಸ್ ಆಫ್ ಇಂಡಿಯಾ ರೂಲ್ಸ್ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಏನು ಮಾಡಿದ್ದಾರೆ ಅದನ್ನು ಮಾತಿಲ್ಲದವ ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕರಿಗೆ ನೀರು ಮತ್ತು ವಿದ್ಯುಚ್ಛಕ್ತಿಯ ಸಾಕಾರ್ಯವನ್ನು ಸಾಕಷ್ಟು ಒದಗಿಸುತ್ತೀರಾ? ದಯಮಾಡಿ ಈ ರೀತಿಯಾಗದ ಹಾಗೆ ಪರ್‌ಫಮೆಂಟ್ ಮೆಸೇಜ್ ಇನ್ನು ಮುಂದೆ ತೆಗೆದುಕೊಂಡು ಎಲೆಕ್ಟ್ರಾನಿಟಿ ಮತ್ತು ವಾಟರ್ ಅವರ ಜವಾಬ್ದಾರಿಯಲ್ಲದೆ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಜವಾಬ್ದಾರಿ ಇರುವಂತೆ ಕ್ರಮ ತೆಗೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳುತ್ತೀರಾ? ಎರಡನೆಯದು, ಕೋ-ಆಪರೇಟೀವ್ ಸೊಸೈಟಿಯನ್ನು ಕೋಲ್ಸ್ ಮಾಡಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಇದನ್ನು ಕೋಲ್ಸ್ ಮಾಡುವುದಕ್ಕೆ ಮ್ಯಾನೇಜ್‌ಮೆಂಟಿಗೆ ಅಧಿಕಾರವಿದೆಯೇ? ಈಗ ತಾನೆ ಶುರು ಮಾಡಿದ್ದಾರೆ ಎಂದು ತಾವು ಹೇಳುತ್ತೀರಿ. ಅದರಲ್ಲೂ ಕೂಡಾ ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕರಿಗೆ ಏನೇನು ಕೊಡಬೇಕೋ ಅವರನ್ನು ಸರಿಯಾಗಿ ಕೊಡುತ್ತಾ ಇಲ್ಲ. ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕರಿಗೆ ಅಡ್ಡಾನ್ಸ್ ಕೊಡಿ ಎಂದರೆ, ಅಲ್ಲಿ ಹೆರಾನ್ ಮಾಡುತ್ತಾರೆ ಎಂದು ತಿಳಿದು ಬಂದಿದೆ. ಈ ಹೆರಾನ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ತಪ್ಪಿಸುವುದಕ್ಕೆ ತಾವು ಏನು ಪ್ರಯತ್ನಗಳನ್ನು ಮಾಡುತ್ತೀರಿ? ಕೊನೆಯದಾಗಿ.

You have said here that further efforts to resolve the issues involved are being made. What are the efforts made and how do you bring down the most recalcitrant employer in our State who is there and who is a powerful personality and who has got pulls at the Centre? How do you pull him down is my question.

SRI AZEEZ SAIT.—I have dealt in detail in the reply to the call attention notice. I want the hon. member Sri Krishnan to read the first paragraph wherein I have said that out of 24 demands 14 demands were settled. Later on one demand was dropped, leaving 9 demands. What happened was, the Government waited for the report from the Labour Commissioner. The delay caused is due to the tactics adopted by the management. One of the representatives of the management came to my chamber.

(SRI AZEEZ SAIT)

Probably the intention of the management is that he is capable of dealing with the workers and further he tried to direct me that the Government need interfere. I have informed him that he cannot command the Government. The management has now resorted to some harsh measures like restricting the supply of water and cutting electricity and has stated that by mere legislation Government cannot have full control. I can assure the House that I will deal with this gentleman whoever he is, however powerful he might be, in a proper manner.

The hon. member asked why not an ordinance be issued. I do not think an ordinance is necessary. I will see that the Deputy Commissioner exercises his power and see that water supply and electricity is given to the workers. The hon. member said that on account of the workers being scattered, the question of maintaining law and order would be there. What I understand from the representatives of the workers is that they are united. They have taken this challenge to their heard and I have advised them not to resort to violence. So far the workers are united and I will see there is no violence. I know the hardships the workers have to undergo because he has instructed that purchases from the co-operative society should be made on cash basis. Workers have no money. That is the situation.

Sri V. M. Ghadi asked why not the Government take away the industry. I cannot say. I will try to consider that also. According to us the agreement signed is not a legal one. The union has removed the president and the persons who signed are absconding. It is for you to see what type of fraud is played on the workers. I can assure that the Government is fully aware of the situation. I once again request that the workers should not resort to violence and allow the Government to solve the problem.

SRI M. S. KRISHNAN.—I am glad that action is contemplated particularly with regard to water and electricity. From the statement it is clear that this management has been recalcitrant and they are not prepared to hear any word of the Government. Since it is the intention of the Government to see that not only the dispute is resolved but workers also do not starve, why not you see that some sort of financial assistance is given to those people so that they can keep their body and soul together?

SRI AZEEZ SAIT.—How can it be possible? You are the Labour Leader. I would only request you that through your unions you can show some sympathy and help them to get some advance loans,

SRI M. S. KRISHNAN.—The money that the union can give is very little. Since the Government is speaking of socialism here is a case where the workers are on the road and they are made to suffer. Why not the Government help them?

SRI AZEEZ SAIT.—I can only plead for some time. As Labour Minister I cannot make any financial commitment.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

SRI AZEEZ SAIT.—I beg to lay :

The Administration Report of the M. S. R. T. C. for the year 1970-71 under Section 35(3) of the Road Transport Corporation Act, 1950 (Central Act 64 of 1950).

MADAM SPEAKER.—The report is laid.